

THE LACLEDE BLADE

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A. J. CAYWOOD.

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FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Special Correspondence

A valuable addition to the group of agricultural experts in the senate is found in Hon. Bert M. Fernald, republican, of Maine, who was elected to fill out the unexpired term of the late Senator Burleigh, and who takes his seat immediately. Mr. Fernald is senior member of The Fernald, Keene & True Company of West Poland, Maine, a firm which handles the agricultural products of more than fifty towns in that state, and has factories in six different communities. It is to be hoped that a place may be found for Senator Fernald on the committee on agriculture and forestry, in spite of the fact that there are at present no vacancies among either the republican or democratic members. A glance at any of the agricultural appropriation bills controlled by that democratic committee will convince even the casual observer of the need of substituting practical farmers for some of the theorists now in charge of that measure.

One of the greatest menaces which the reelection of President Wilson has brought upon the country, and one which is little realized by the rank and file, is the fact that when his second term has ended he will probably have appointed seven of the nine justices of the supreme court of the United States. Already three vacancies have occurred and been filled during his administration, and failing health and old age are likely to provide further opportunities for the exercise of the presidential appointing power during the next four years. Probably never before has such a situation presented itself, and it is particularly unfortunate that it should occur at a time when the white house is occupied by a man notorious for his debauchery of the civil service, the consular service, and who uses the entire appointing power of the executive to meet political exigencies.

Republican Senator-elect Joseph I. France of Maryland was a recent caller at the capitol. When Dr. France takes his seat next year the senate will have the unique distinction of including among its membership three doctors of medicine, the other two being Senators Gallinger of New Hampshire and Lane of Oregon. Dr. France is young and vigorous, of commanding personality, with a strong voice and impressive delivery. His advent into the senate means not only an addition of votes to the republican side of the chamber, but a decided gain in ability and enthusiasm for the militant minority.

Probably the first real contest that will take place in the senate will be the fight over the election of a president pro tempore. The office was made vacant by the death during the past summer of Senator James P. Clarke of Arkansas. Various factions on the democratic side are grooming candidates for the place, Senators Walsh of Montana, Sanbury of Delaware, Bankhead of Alabama, and James of Kentucky being most prominently mentioned. The election of the last named senator, who at present appears to have a lead over his colleagues, would be fraught with extreme danger.

During the bitter fight on the government shipping bill in the spring of last year it was openly threatened that James would be called to the chair at a critical moment, and he had promised that if he had the opportunity he would recognize a motion for the previous question, contrary to the rules of the senate, and by that means force a vote on the bill. Fortunately for the good of the country and the dignity of the senate wiser counsels prevailed and such "strongarm" methods were not resorted to. With the reduced democratic majority, however, such situations are likely to develop in the future, and it is hoped that a senator who would not violate the rules of the senate may be elected.

State Child Laws Should Be Revised

That the laws of Missouri applying to children are inadequate and defective will be the report of the Missouri children's code commission appointed by Gov. Major in 1915 of which Dr. Charles A. Ellwood of the department of sociology, Manley O. Hudson of the school of law, and Isidor Lobe dean of the school of commerce and administration of the university of Missouri are members, to the General Assembly of 1917. The commission advises a revision of the laws for children to include: support of children whose fathers have died leaving them destitute by counties, right of support for illegitimate children, children's courts, education and examination of defective children, greater protection for laboring children, county boards of public welfare and many other progressive and needed reforms.

The Burlington To Build

The Burlington railroad company filed application with the interstate commerce commission last month for permission to construct a line from Monroe City to Moberly, stipulating how the road was to be built and for what purpose. It is stated in railroad circles that this line is to connect with the Santa Fe at Carrollton and use the Santa Fe track to Kansas City. The Santa Fe is to build a line from Carrollton to Mexico and use the Burlington track from there to St. Louis.

This would give the Burlington a direct line from Quincy to Kansas City over which to handle all the through freight and passenger business and would reduce the number of trains through Laclede about one-half. Laclede, however, would have the same good local service it now has and probably better service on the north and south line as that line would have entrance to Kansas City by way of Carrollton. A railroad official gave it as his opinion this week that the Burlington line would be built and in operation within the next year.

Missouri Farmers' Week

Hearing farming discussed from a scientific standpoint by the United States best scientific farmers and viewing practical demonstrations in courses of improved farming methods will be the privilege of the Missouri farmers who attend the annual farmers' week at Columbia given by the college of agriculture of the University of Missouri and the state board of agriculture. The week begins January 1, and ends January 5 with a banquet at which prize steers from the university farm will be served. A call has been sent out to all granges and other agricultural societies of the state urging them to attend the meeting. Each year large delegations come from a majority of the counties of Missouri.

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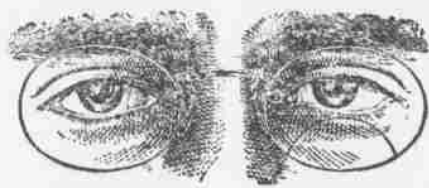
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